Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A process for isolating nucleic acid from a nucleic acid-containing sample, which comprises:

(a) providing a chaotrope;

(b) providing a nucleic acid binding solid phase capable of binding nucleic acid in the presence of the chaotrope;

(c) providing a source of NH_4^+ or NH_3;

(d) contacting the sample with the nucleic acid binding solid phase in the presence of a liquid phase comprising the chaotrope and the NH_4^+ or NH_3 provided by the source of NH_4^+ or NH_3, wherein the liquid phase has a ~~PH~~ pH in the range of 8.5 to 9.5; and

(e) optionally separating the solid phase with the nucleic acid bound thereto from the liquid phase.

2. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, which further comprises a step of eluting the nucleic acid from the solid phase.

3. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the sample comprises a biological sample.

4. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 3, wherein the biological sample comprises a cellular sample.

5. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 3, which further comprises a lysis step comprising subjecting the biological sample to conditions to lyse the sample.

6. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 5, wherein the source of NH_4^+ or NH_3 is ~~present~~ provided during the lysis step.

7. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid to be isolated comprises DNA.

8. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 7, wherein the DNA comprises ds DNA.

9. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid comprises RNA.

10. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 9, wherein the RNA comprises mRNA.

11. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the chaotrope comprises a guandinium salt, urea, an iodide, chlorate, perchlorate or (iso)thiocyanate.

12. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid binding solid phase comprises a silica-based solid phase.

13. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the solid phase is magnetic.

14. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the source of NH_4^+ or NH_3 comprises a solution of ammonia.

15. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the source of NH_4^+ or NH_3 and the chaotrope are provided together as a solution.

16. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) A kit for isolating nucleic acid from a nucleic acid-containing sample, which kit comprises:

(a) a solution that comprises

(i) a chaotrope, and

(ii) a source of NH_4^+ or NH_3,

wherein the solution has a pH in the range of 8.5 to 9.5; and

(b) a nucleic acid binding solid phase capable of binding nucleic acid in the presence of the chaotrope and the NH_4^+ or NH_3 provided by the source of NH_4^+ or NH_3.

17. (Withdrawn) The kit according to claim 16, which further comprises a solution for eluting the nucleic acid from the solid phase.

18. (Withdrawn) The kit according to claim 16, which further comprises a lysis solution for lysing biological samples.

19. (Withdrawn) The kit according to claim 16, wherein the nucleic acid binding solid phase comprises a silica-based solid phase.

20. (Withdrawn) The kit according to claim 16, wherein the solid phase is magnetic.

21. (Withdrawn) The kit according to claim 16, wherein the source of NH_4^+ or NH_3 is ammonia.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 7, wherein the DNA comprises ss DNA.

24. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 9, wherein the RNA comprises total RNA.

25. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 9, wherein the RNA comprises rRNA.